

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00008 051018Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MT
SUBJECT: PM MINTOFF'S ANNUAL NEW YEAR BROADCAST - NOTHING NEW

1. PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF'S ANNUAL NEW YEAR BROADCAST (TELEVISION AND RADIO) FOCUSED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON DOMESTIC MATTERS. HE REVIEWED MALTA'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN POSITIVE TERMS BUT ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED EFFORTS IN ORDER TO MEET MALTA'S "APPOINTMENT WITH DESTINY" -- MARCH, 1979. HE MADE ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO MALTA'S TWO MAJOR DOMESTIC CONTROVERSIES, THE DOCTOR'S STRIKE AND THE DISPUTE WITH CERTAIN TELEMALTA EMPLOYEES, AND OFFERED NO PROSPECT OF SOLUTIONS TO THESE DISPUTES.

2. MINTOFF SET AS MALTA'S GOAL FOR THE NEW YEAR THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND IGNORANCE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SOCIETY BASED ON SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES SO THAT MALTA "CAN TRULY BOAST THAT IT IS A CHRISTIAN, CIVILIZED" COUNTRY. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL HE LISTED A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, MOSTLY ONES SPECIFIED EARLIER BY THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKER PARTICIPATION, REFORM OF TERTIARY EDUCATION AND THE NEED TO ACHIEVE GREATER UNION BETWEEN THE MALTA LABOR PARTY
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PAGE 02 VALLET 00008 051018Z

AND THE GENERAL WORKER'S UNION SO THAT "THE WORKER, WHEN FINDING HIMSELF IN THE POLITICAL CAMP, WILL NOT WORK AGAINST THE INTEREST OF THE WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRIAL CAMP AND WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRIAL CAMP WILL NOT WORK AGAINST THE OTHER WORKERS IN THE POLITICAL CAMP."

3. AFTER NOTING THAT "WE WANT TO UNITE ALL THE PEOPLE,"

MINTOFF SAID IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO EXPECT TOO MUCH --
"YOU CANNOT MIX FIRE AND SNOW. YOU CANNOT MIX BLOOD AND
PUS BECAUSE YOU WILL END UP BY HAVING PUS ONLY." HE
CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT "THE COMING YEAR IS THE LAST
YEAR BEFORE THE RENAISSANCE", THE COMPLETE ACHIEVEMENT OF
MALTA'S FREEDOM, AND THAT "OUR COUNTRY WILL MEET WITH PRIDE
THE APPOINTMENT WE OURSELVES FIXED WITH DESTINY."

4. COMMENT: MINTOFF'S SPEECH CONTAINED NO SURPRISES AND
NOTHING ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXCEPT FOR A LISTING OF THOSE
COUNTRIES WHICH WILL BE CONTRIBUTING TO VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS. ALL IN ALL IT WAS A RATHER PEDESTRIAN PERFORMANCE.
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Message Attributes

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